

# IRON COUNTY RECORD.

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## DESCRIPTION

### OF TOBASCO

Large Forests, Green Savannas, Beautiful Birds.

IT'S NUMEROUS INSECT PESTS.

Warm, Damp Climate Made Bearable by Cool Sea Breezes.—Industrious Natives Kindly Disposed.

The following interesting description of Mexico, with its advantages and disadvantages, was written by Prof. Cluff to the Provo Enquirer under date of Nov. 4. The communication is dated at San Juan, Bautista, and runs as follows:

It is well that I did not write the first week, and still better that I did not write the third or fourth month, for all that come here pass through three mental states concerning the country. The first impression is very favorable. One thinks he is in the suburbs of the Garden of Eden, if not in the garden itself. The beautiful green grass, large forests with flowers vines and trees, and clinging mosses of every description; the beautiful birds of varied plumage, monkey, "chicoes" parrots and all make a delightful picture. But soon comes the second stage, for when he goes into these savannas and forests he finds mosquitos of all sizes and of great persistency, gnats so small he can hardly see them, but whose bite is worse than that of the mosquitos, garapots or wood ticks that make one look like a smallpox patient, their sting is so poisonous, "niguas" that burrow into the lower extremities, laying eggs that soon develop into little worms, "culmuyotes," an animal that no one seems to have seen, but that lays an egg in the flesh of man and beasts that soon develops into a maggot half an inch long and makes a wound as large as a full grown boil. Then one begins to feel that he is not in the Garden of Eden, nor in Paradise, but rather in that other place that we read about. This is the second state. The third is a balance between the two.

This is a beautiful country in spite of these pests. These wonderful savannas have green grass all the year, and while the grass is not so strong as ours in the west, cattle and horses flourish and do well. It is one of the best stock countries in the world, and while fortunes have been made, there are many to be made still, as the stock industry has not yet been developed. These wonderful forests are full of useful woods, such as mahogany, cedar and rose woods. I mention these first as they form almost the only trees of export, but there are many others that yield a beautiful timber, which when fully known will also be exported. The "palo amarillo," or yellow wood, is one of the latter. The tree grows a hundred feet high and cuts two good logs. The wood is a beautiful bright yellow and makes up easily into beautiful furniture. Another tree yields a bark almost as strong as hemp which is used for ropes. There is a plant also of the heniquen family, the fiber of which is often used for thread. This if cultivated would yield great returns; and lastly there is much wild rubber, but the greater part of these very useful trees has been destroyed by man in his eager search for the sap. But everywhere I notice the natives as well as the foreigners are planting the rubber tree on their haciendas and will doubtless in the near future receive rich returns.

The climate, so much dreaded because of its heat and of the fevers it develops, is not so bad as pictured. True, it is hot and damp, but our prevailing winds are from the north-east, and hence are from the ocean, cool and refreshing. May is the hottest month, and for about a week last May the heat was oppressive, but soon the cooling rains came and the weather moderated. The thermometer has never passed the 100 mark. It stands mostly between 70 and 85 deg F. The nights are always cool. The sun cannot heat the ground, as everywhere there is either green trees or grass, and therefore as soon as the direct rays cease the weather cools.

Then to, we have so many cloudy days that we do not get the full heat of the sun. In fact, I might say, that every day is a cloudy day, for we seldom have a bright sun longer than ten or eleven in the morning. If this country were as dry and barren as the western states, no human being could live here, but as it is, when one becomes acclimated it is delightful ten months in the year.

The health of our little colony has been good so far. Once or twice we thought some of the children had a touch of malaria, but it developed otherwise. Perhaps one thing that conduces to good health is our outdoor life. One never thinks of being in a closed room. Our general living room is the veranda, and our bed rooms are open day and night. In fact, we live, eat and sleep out of doors, or with open doors. The delightful bathing to be had everywhere also conduces to health. Near the San Fernando house runs a stream of water which furnishes bathing the year round, but the children like the shower bath furnished by the eaves of the house during a rain storm. They watch the dark clouds or the falling rain as it comes over the forest, or sometimes it falls heavy enough to be heard a mile off, then all is excitement until their mother has helped even the smallest, not yet eight months old, on with this bathing gown, and by the time the water pours down the 'spout' a lot of bare heads are in waiting. Their merry laughs tell how they enjoy the fun. A dry towel and a dry frock after the bath puts them into a glow of health.

The natives of Tobasco, more perhaps than those of any other part of Mexico, are a kindly disposed people. There is none of that Vendetti spirit found in some of the interior people. They are hospitable, gentle and very polite, and make very good servants. All are given to drink, but even when drunken they are not quarrelsome. The difficulties we have had on the plantation have been principally with our workmen from the interior countries, especially from Samara, and I believe it would be unjust to judge all of those in Samara by the ones we have, for the agents whose business it is to get work people are not particular what class they get, and often go to the jails and get prisoners liberated by paying their fines to send them down here to work. The real Tabascanian is a good worker. He is master of the "machete" which he can wield with either hand and work all day. He is also good with the axe, for all have more or less been employed in the "moterías" or forests cutting and squaring mahogany.

Religiously there is no state so free from the Catholic church as Tabasco.

In fact there are whole communities here who have accepted the Protestant religion, and it can be said of Tabasco more than of any other state in Mexico, in fact more than of any other of the Catholic republics of America, there is complete religious liberty. The full blood Indian here is the most, and his faith is mostly for "fiesta" days. In conversation with one of these Indians the other day I was asked to which saint I prayed. When I replied that the Protestants usually send their prayers direct to heaven, he replied in a very grave manner, "Then they do not arrive." "It is necessary," he went on to explain, "to have them borne by a saint, who carries them direct to God and intercedes in your behalf." In answer to my question as to which saint he prayed to, he replied, "To Saint Miguel;" and that his was the patron saint of his village. When I informed him that in the world there must be more than a hundred thousand people praying to San Miguel, and that the saint was very busy carrying all of these prayers up and bringing answers back, he was troubled and would not reply except by saying that prayers direct to God would never reach him.

B. CLUFF, JR.

#### Ostentation.

"You say that man's relations won't speak to him?" said the surveyor who had stopped at the leg cabin. "Yes. An' it serves him right. Jes' as soon as he come into a little property he bought himself a glass eye an' a set o' false teeth, an' his kin' reckoned it was mighty ill-mannered to come around puttin' on style an' wearin' all that jewelry."

## STATE NEWS.

The total output of Utah coal last year was 1,681,409 short tons. The production has steadily increased every year since 1896.

The U. of U. football team will possibly make a trip to the coast in order to find some competitor "worthy of its steel."

U. S. Marshal Heywood is busy subpoenaing witnesses in the Collett post-office deficit case, which will come before the federal grand jury next week.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier of Canada, is making a tour of the United States and arrived at Salt Lake last Sunday, where he was made the recipient of much attention.

Dr. P. G. P. Attias of Salt Lake has been arrested for practicing medicine without a license. Pending trial he is out on surety furnished by his attorney.

Levi N. Harmon of Price, late democratic candidate for secretary of state and manager of the Price Co-op., has sold out his interest in that institution and retired from business in Price.

Five petitions for pardons are in the hands of the attorney-general, awaiting the action of the state board of pardons. The sentences of the parties range from sixty days to eight years.

Two chicken thieves, who certainly did not lack nerve, were captured Thanksgiving day with seven headless chickens in their possession, the property of Patrolman Taylor of Salt Lake.

Terry Davis and Jack Price fought four rounds to a draw at the Utah Athletic Club's monthly show last week. There were several other events of a like nature.

A federal health officer reported that milk was being sold by families that have typhoid and other infectious or contagious diseases.

A. W. McCune and his associates have completed a line of railroad in Peru eighty-two miles in length. It extends from the terminus of the Oroya railway to Cerro, passing the smelters eight miles out of town.

A number of deaths have recently resulted at Goshen from typhoid fever, the last one reported being the fourteen years old daughter of William Finch. Mr. Finch has just returned from a mission to the South-western states.

The Independent company, however, seems to be making things very interesting for the Bell people in Salt Lake lately, and it is possible that the old concern will have to make some concessions or lose its subscribers.

Mrs. Josiah Smith of American Fork is critically ill with blood poisoning caused by pricking her finger with a pin. Two doctors are in attendance and her arm has been opened in several places in the effort to arrest the poison.

As Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Williams of Ogden were returning at 1 a. m. Friday from a Thanksgiving visit which they had been paying to some friends, they were each relieved of a gold watch and Mr. Williams of a small sum of money, by a couple of men armed with revolvers.

Roy Scott, the youth who developed a mania for slashing in Salt Lake City recently, is now an inmate of the state mental hospital at Provo. Two years ago, it develops, he shot a girl with a 22-cal rifle as she stood in her own yard in Park City.

Two Ogden thieves relieved Will Cook of that burg of his pocket-knife on the night of Thanksgiving as he and his wife were going home from the dance. Cook found cause for thanksgiving in the fact that the robbers did not find the five dollar gold piece that he had in an inner pocket.

Salt Lake horticulturists are preparing to ask the next legislature to establish an auxiliary agricultural experiment station in Salt Lake county. A hundred and fifty letters have already been sent to newspapers and legislators with the view of preparing them for the request.

Edward R. Weed had his preliminary hearing last week before Judge Burns of Eureka, for the killing of his partner, Alma F. White, on the 9th inst. at Fish Springs. The prisoner was bound over to the district court to answer to a charge of murder. Judge Powers will defend him.

The merchants and business men of Park City have been victimized recently by some fellow who talked them into subscribing for or advertising in a business directory. When the work showed up it proved to be a lot of advertisements printed on cheap card board, for which he collected a good round sum and skipped.

Henry Drew of Park City made an attempt to commit suicide by taking a compound known as "rough on rats" and whisky at the Oxford saloon. When prevented by the officers from carrying out his intention he manifested such determination to find other means of self-destruction that it was found necessary to lock him up in the city hall.

The articles of incorporation of the Wasatch King Mining company were filed in the office of the county clerk of Utah county last week. The incorporators are James Chipman of Salt Lake, James Chipman, Jr., Edward Winn, John Chadwick, and H. C. Johnson of American Fork. The company is capitalized at \$75,000.

The business men of Salt Lake have started a movement having for its object the cheapening of telephone service, and a request for cheaper rates has been presented to the representative of the Bell Telephone company. The probabilities are that instead of cheaper rates the company will present them with arguments to show that the present rates are low enough.

Park City is putting in a new fire fighting plant, having made arrangements to dispose of their engine which, owing to the uneven character of the ground upon which the city is built, has been found to be of but little use. The new apparatus will consist of hose and nozzles, which will be connected with the city water mains in case of need.

Some boys who were playing on the bank of a canal in Salt Lake City last Thursday night a little before dark found a bundle of bedding in the water, which on opening was found to contain a child's foot, wrapped in a piece of oil-cloth. The member, which was about three inches long and badly decomposed, had about five inches of the leg attached to it.

Judge Morse of the Salt Lake district court granted a motion to set aside the decree of divorce granted to Robert Wilkinson, Jr., from his wife Theresa M. Wilkinson on the 14th of this month. The decree was obtained on the default of the defendant, and in support of the motion it was shown that the summons was not served personally on her.

As a result of the success that the University foot-ball team has met with lately, the faculty deems it a time for the broadening of the work of the institution, and the Legislature will be asked to appropriate the necessary means for building a gymnasium, increasing the faculty and furnishing means for doing more extensive work in chemistry, mineralogy and mining engineering.

John F. McKnight, an employee of the Provo Woolen Mills, was killed last Saturday while attempting to belt a rapidly revolving pulley. His clothing caught on a set screw and he was instantly whipped around the shaft with fearful speed, while with every revolution of the shaft his feet and legs struck the ceiling with terrific force. Pieces of his flesh were picked off the floor forty feet from where the accident occurred.

The state board of health had occasion to send a representative to the town of Yost on the border line of Utah and Idaho, to investigate an alleged epidemic of typhoid. The representative found but one case, that of a young man who had contracted the disease in Almo, a town in Cassia Co. Idaho, twelve miles distant; but he learned that at Almo half of the entire population of 150 persons had the disease, and nine deaths had already occurred. The cause of the epidemic has been traced to the drinking water.

## A MATTER OF HEALTH



**ROYAL**  
BAKING POWDER  
Absolutely Pure  
HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

Milo Ripet, a railroad employee who had been suffering with typhoid fever at Callientes and was recovering, went violently insane last week, and having gotten possession of a gun, went into the Greek camp and made things exceedingly lively until captured by the officers. He was taken to Pioche.

A Salt Lake policeman visited a barber shop in Ogden recently to get shaved. Preparatory to taking the chair he hung his coat on the rack. When he was completed he resumed his coat and left, but in half an hour he returned in search of his pocket book, which he said he had either lost or it had been stolen from him while he was being shaved and he accused the negro porter of having taken it. The boy and his employer both denied the charge of the theft and the policeman notified the authorities of the case and his transportation being in the missing pocket book he bought a ticket and departed for home. In the meantime another customer who had been in the shop undergoing repairs at the same time as the policeman, was discharged and upon resuming his coat, found a number of articles in the pocket that did not belong to him, which caused him to notice that the coat was not his own. Among the articles in the pockets was the policeman's pocket-book. The negro porter wants a charge of petit larceny preferred against the policeman for stealing the other man's coat.

The most expensive wine in the world is some 1778 Madeira received from a wreck in the Scheldt in 1811. It was sold at \$670 a bottle.

If you have failed to pay your taxes thus far this year you will probably find your name among the delinquents which are published in this issue. If you have through carelessness or other cause allowed your name to be published, be prompt to make settlement now and prevent further trouble and expense.

The time has come when the Utah farmer cannot afford to throw or give away the manure on his farm. When these mountain valleys were first settled they were more fertile than now and many of the first farmers hauled the manure and dumped it in any old place to get it out of the way. We are finding out now, however, that it pays to manure the land.

Conservation of soil fertility means just as much to Utah as the conservation of soil moisture—both are important.—Deseret Farmer.

Holdups seem to be becoming the regular thing at the state capital, and neither in doors nor out do the unfortunates who live there seem to be secure. The proprietor of Kirk's grocery store on South and 4th Wets streets came near losing his life last Saturday on account of not obeying as promptly the command to hold up his hands as the two robbers who came to his store thought he ought to do. The bullet missed him, but he was glad to hand out the contents of the cash register. An hour later Sherwood's Drug store was visited by a lone thief who approached the counter as if to make a purchase and suddenly shoved a pistol into the face of the astonished clerk with the order to go and turn his face to the back door, which he lost no time in doing. The thief took \$20 that was in the drawer and left.